

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An image processing apparatus management system, comprising:

an image processing apparatus connected to a first computer network and having a printing function, the image processing apparatus including a determining unit configured to determine whether an aspect of the image processing apparatus is in a predetermined situation;

a managing apparatus connected to a second computer network and configured to manage the image processing apparatus; [[and]]

a firewall configured to control data transmission between the first computer network and the second computer network, the firewall configured to allow reply data sent by the managing apparatus in the second computer network to reach the image processing apparatus in the first computer network, the reply data being in reply to an access to the managing apparatus from the image processing apparatus using at least one of a predetermined protocol having an immediacy;

a generating unit configured to generate report data when the determining unit determines that the aspect of the image processing apparatus is in the predetermined situation, the report data including the predetermined situation of the image processing apparatus; and

a transmitting unit configured to transmit the report data to the managing apparatus via the firewall using the at least one of the predetermined protocols having an immediacy.

~~an image processing apparatus that is connected to the computer network and managed by the managing apparatus via the computer network wherein~~

~~the image processing apparatus is connected to the computer network via a firewall that allows data transmitted using predetermined protocols to pass through, wherein at least~~

~~one of the predetermined protocols has an immediacy, and~~

~~the image processing apparatus having a report generating/transmitting unit that generates report data and transmits the report data to the managing apparatus through the computer network using the protocol having the immediacy.~~

Claim 2 (Original): The image processing apparatus management system according to claim 1, wherein the firewall allows reply data sent by the managing apparatus in response to the report data, to pass through and reach the image processing apparatus.

Claim 3 (Original): The image processing apparatus management system according to claim 2, wherein when the report data sent by the image processing apparatus includes a request for a program, the managing apparatus includes the program in the reply data.

Claim 4 (Original): The image processing apparatus management system according to claim 1, wherein the protocol having the immediacy is hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP).

Claim 5 (Original): The image processing apparatus management system according to claim 1, wherein the managing apparatus includes an informing unit that informs an operator of an identification of the image processing apparatus that sent the report data and contents of the report data.

Claim 6 (Original): The image processing apparatus management system according to claim 1, wherein the managing apparatus includes a report outputting unit that outputs contents of the report data, and an identification of the image processing apparatus that sent the report data.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): An image processing apparatus configured to perform an imaging function and [[that is]] connected to a computer network via a firewall that allows data transmitted using predetermined protocols to pass through, wherein at least one of the predetermined protocols has an immediacy, wherein a managing apparatus connected to the computer network manages a predetermined image processing apparatus, the image processing apparatus comprising:

~~a report generating/transmitting unit that generates report data and transmits the report data to the managing apparatus through the computer network using the protocol having the immediacy~~

a determining unit configured to determine whether an aspect of the image processing apparatus is in a predetermined situation,

a generating unit configured to generate report data when the determining unit determines that the aspect of the image processing apparatus is in a predetermined situation, the report data including the predetermined situation of the image processing apparatus; and

a transmitting unit configured to transmit the report data to the managing apparatus via the firewall using the at least one of the predetermined protocols having an immediacy, wherein

reply data sent by the managing apparatus to reach the image processing apparatus is sent through the firewall, the reply data is a reply to an access to the managing apparatus from the image processing apparatus using the at least one of the predetermined protocols having an immediacy.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The image processing apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:

a remaining amount detecting unit that detects an amount of unused consumable product in the image processing apparatus, wherein

if the amount detected is equal to or less than a predetermined value, the ~~report generating/transmitting~~ generating unit generates the report data by including therein, information about the consumable product.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The image processing apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:

a product replacement detecting unit that detects whether a product in the image processing apparatus must be replaced, wherein

if the product replacement detecting unit detects that the product must be replaced, the ~~report generating/transmitting~~ generating unit generates the report data by including therein, information about the product to be replaced.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The image processing apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:

an abnormal condition detecting unit that detects an occurrence or a possibility of occurrence of an abnormal condition in the image processing apparatus, wherein

if the occurrence or the possibility of occurrence of the abnormal condition is detected, the ~~report generating/transmitting~~ generating unit generates the report data by including therein, information about the abnormal condition.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The image processing apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising an inputting unit that inputs an instruction, wherein

if the instruction is input, the ~~report generating/transmitting~~ generating unit generates the report data by including the instruction therein.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The image processing apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising an order information inputting unit that inputs order information to order a consumable product, wherein

if the order information is input, the ~~report generating/transmitting~~ generating unit generates the report data by including the order information therein.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The image processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the ~~report generating/transmitting~~ generating unit generates the report data by including therein, a request to send a program, and transmits the report data to the managing apparatus at a predetermined interval.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The image processing apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:

a utilization state acquiring unit that acquires state information about a utilization state of the image processing apparatus, wherein

the ~~report generating/transmitting~~ generating unit generates the report data by including the state information therein, and the transmitting unit transmits the report data to the managing apparatus at a predetermined interval.

Claim 15 (Original): The image processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the protocol having the immediacy is hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP).

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A method in which a managing apparatus manages an image processing apparatus, the managing apparatus and the image processing apparatus being connected ~~[[via]]~~ to a second computer network and a first computer network, respectively, and the image processing apparatus communicating with the managing apparatus ~~being connected to the computer network~~ via a firewall that allows data transmitted using predetermined protocols to pass through, wherein at least one of the predetermined protocols has an immediacy, comprising:

determining whether an aspect of the image processing apparatus is in a predetermined situation;

transmitting report data indicating when the aspect of the image processing apparatus is in a predetermined situation from the image processing apparatus to the managing apparatus via the firewall using the at least one of the predetermined protocol having an immediacy;

~~the managing apparatus~~ receiving report data from the image processing apparatus sent through the first and second computer network networks and the firewall using the at least one of the predetermined protocols ~~proteool~~ having the immediacy at the managing apparatus~~[[,]]~~ ~~wherein the report data includes information about the image processing apparatus;~~

~~the managing apparatus~~ outputting contents of the report data received by the managing apparatus; ~~[[and]]~~

~~the managing apparatus~~ generating and sending ~~[[a]]~~ reply data from the managing apparatus to the image processing apparatus via the firewall, in response to the report data received by the image processing apparatus; and

allowing the reply data sent through the firewall to reach the image processing apparatus.

Claim 17 (Original): The method according to claim 16, wherein the protocol having the immediacy is hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP).

Claim 18 (New): The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the managing apparatus, when receiving the report data from the image processing apparatus, generates acknowledgement data indicating reception of the report data, and transmits the reply data to the image processing apparatus through the firewall.

Claim 19 (New): The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first computer network is a LAN and the second computer network is the Internet.

Claim 20 (New): The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first computer network is connected to the second computer network via the firewall.